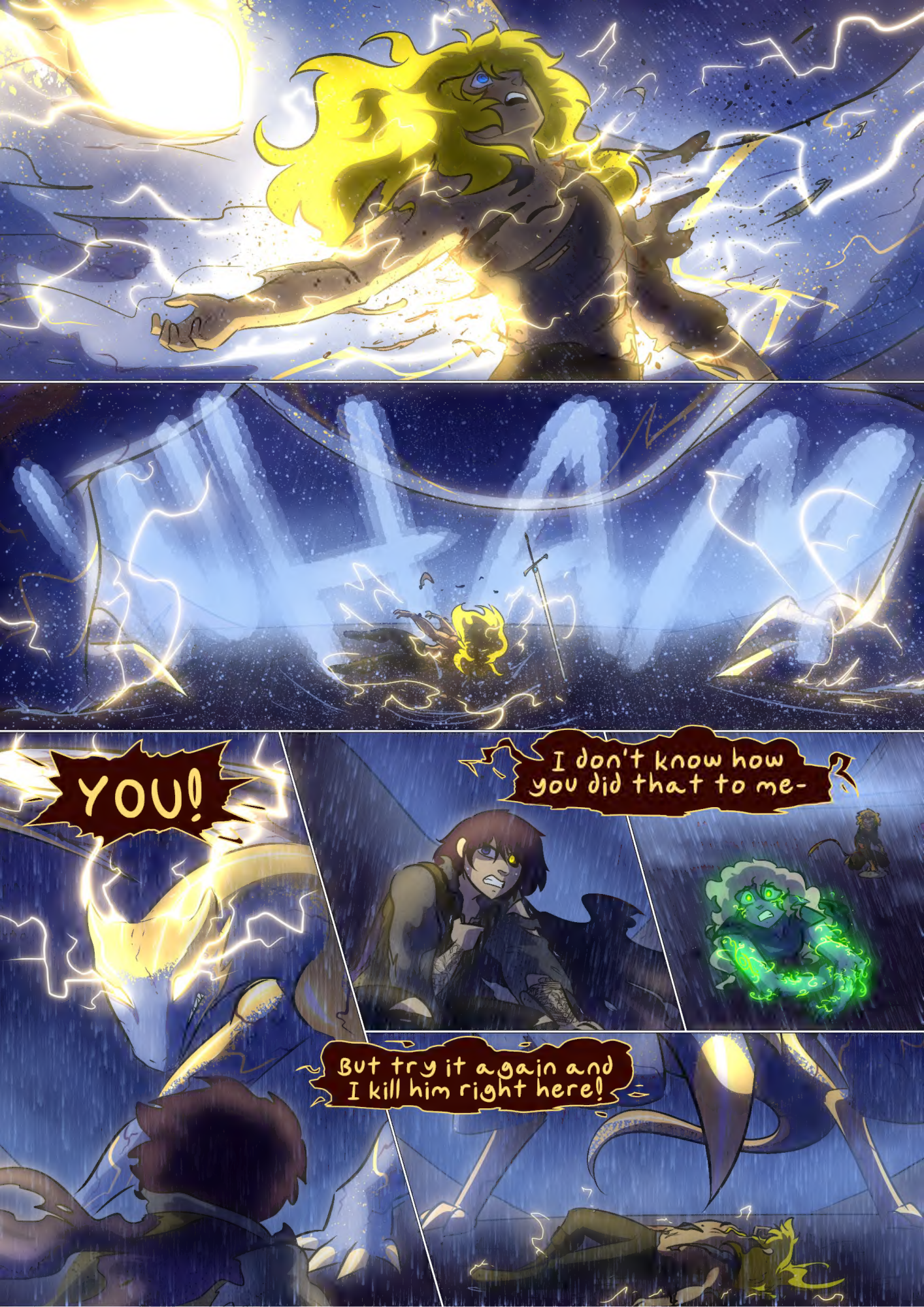
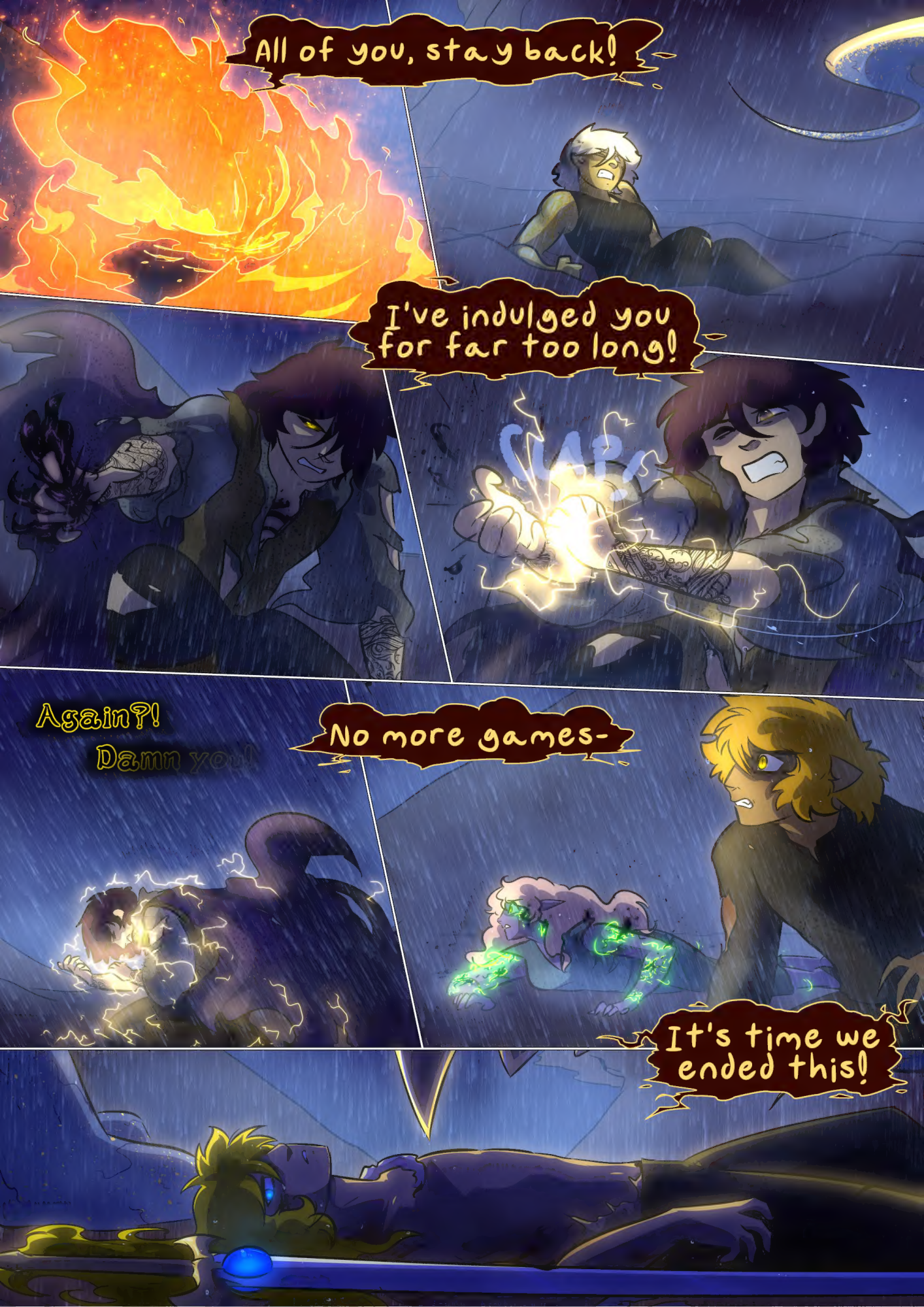
Chapter 18
Cloudbreak

You've got that thing tamed?
Between this and the caves I might actually be in your debt.
Stop talking.
Is this hurting you? Can you change back?
Please. I'm amazed it can still recognize you at all.
I may be a monster, but at least I have self-control. Fire had no such virtue.
Reckless and emotional. He was actually the first I killed, you know-
Stop. Talking.
Right now I am trying very hard to keep everyone alive.
You are making that harder.

I'm not your enemy today, swordsman. I need this one alive as much as you do.
Then let him go.
...Wait.
I see! There's no ME in you!
I'm not one of your creations.
Yes, I should have realized when you first survived my power.
But there's something else in you, isn't there?
Something I haven't tasted in a very long time.
Stop wasting time.
If you kill me, I won't be able to stop Dainix from killing Erin.
If you keep stalling, Alinva will finish healing and come after you.
If you want Erin alive, let him go.
I think I'm going to miss you.

WHAP
Erin?
Be-
-behind-!
SHUNK


YOU!
I don't know how you did that to me-
But try it again and I kill him right here!

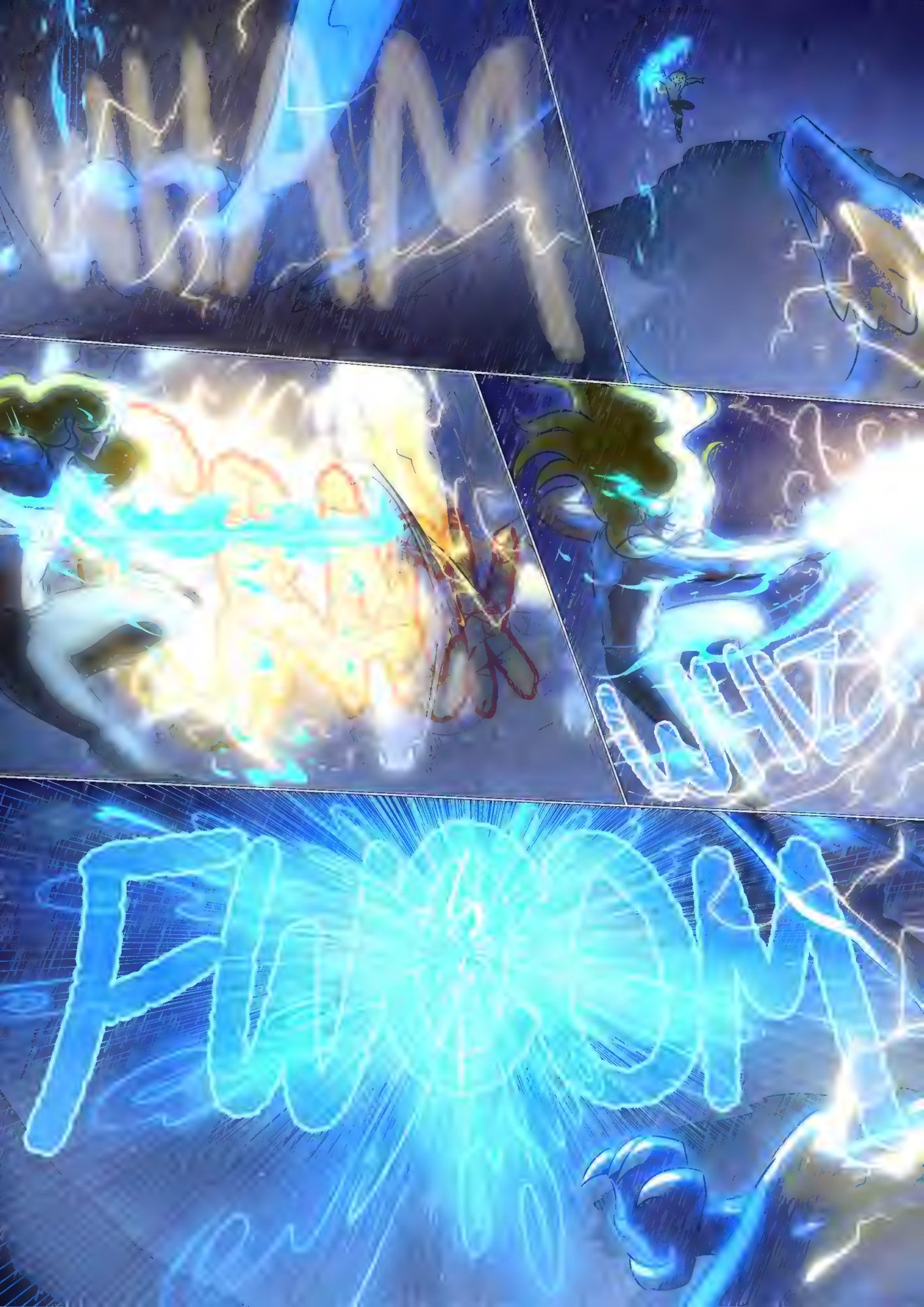

All of you, stay back!
I've indulged you for far too long!
SLAP
Again?!
Damn you!
No more games-
It's time we ended this!

I am Tynan, the Storm of Terror!
I am the wind that tears down your homes!
The rain that drowns your fields and starves your children!
The thunder that shatters your sky!
You think you can FIGHT me?!
You can't even SURVIVE me!
NO!
What are you doing?! STOP!
Oh, delicious!
But it's far too late to start begging-
KENDAL!

I'm sorry...
I made you wait.

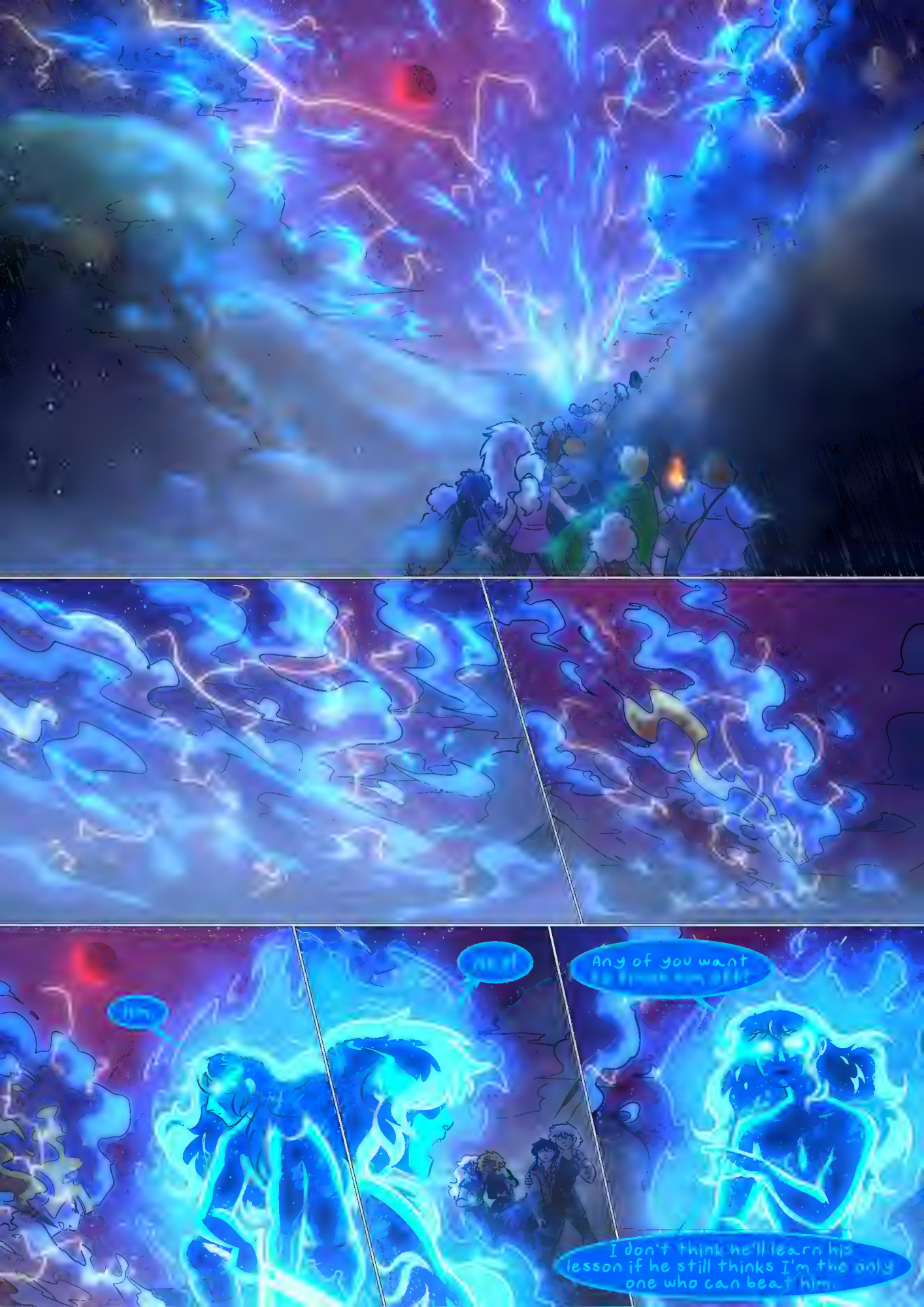
Thank you, Tynan.
I've missed the smell of rain.
CRACK!

It CAN'T be you! You're DEAD!
How am I supposed to respond to that?
This is a TRICK! You CAN'T be Vash!
We're gods, Tynan. We can be anywhere and everywhere our domains hold power.
Oh yeah? Need me to spell it out for you?
Losing my city decimated my domain and let The Collector bind me to her prison -
- but I still had my vessel and sword.
Each could channel a fragment of my power, but neither could draw out my totality alone.
I just needed my vessel to bring them together.
Anyway, the mortals might want to look away for a bit.
This part gets pretty bright.


WHAM
FWOOSH

Wha-?!
What have you done?!
Ah, right!
first try.
Once I learned what
Did you REALLY know?
You - your vessel-!
Of course!
It

NO!
NO!


Hm?
Huh?
Any of you want
I don't think he'll learn his lesson if he still thinks I'm the only one who can beat him.

I mean, I'll do it. Anyone mind?
Oop! Never mind.
Give him back.
Vash.
Vash.

Hey, Zuurith. Finished pulling yourself together?
I'd hoped death would improve your manners. Obviously I was wrong.
Harrius.
Is there a reason you're prioritizing me over your crumbling city?
A reason? This is MY domain, Fairblade.
Your vessel was a mere insult, but to trespass directly is tantamount to war.
War with WHAT?
What do you think I AM, Zuurith?
I have no domain, no [illegible] and nothing to lose.
And the killer aiming to vivisect me very carefully preserved me at the apex of my power.
So you seriously think we're comparable anymore?
...You-
You can stretch your body to the breaking point, but you can never really leave your city.
But I don't have a city anymore.
So YOU'D better not try anything unless you want me hunting you down.
Whatever I became when my city died - I'm free.
It might be fun pretending I have a purpose again.
I tried my hardest to save my people, and I still lost them.
Did you even TRY?
IF you don't start protecting them- [illegible] of them
I WILL come back here and protect them from YOU.

That will not be necessary.
I have quite a lot of work to do.
Collect your people and leave my city.
Right after I-
-uh?
Oh, don't mind me! Just cleaning up a bit.
That's a funny story, but I don't think you have the time for it now.
I'll sort out Tynan, no need to worry.
Ah, right.
Don't worry! You'll change back when you calm down or get tired!
Okay, NOW you should probably go.

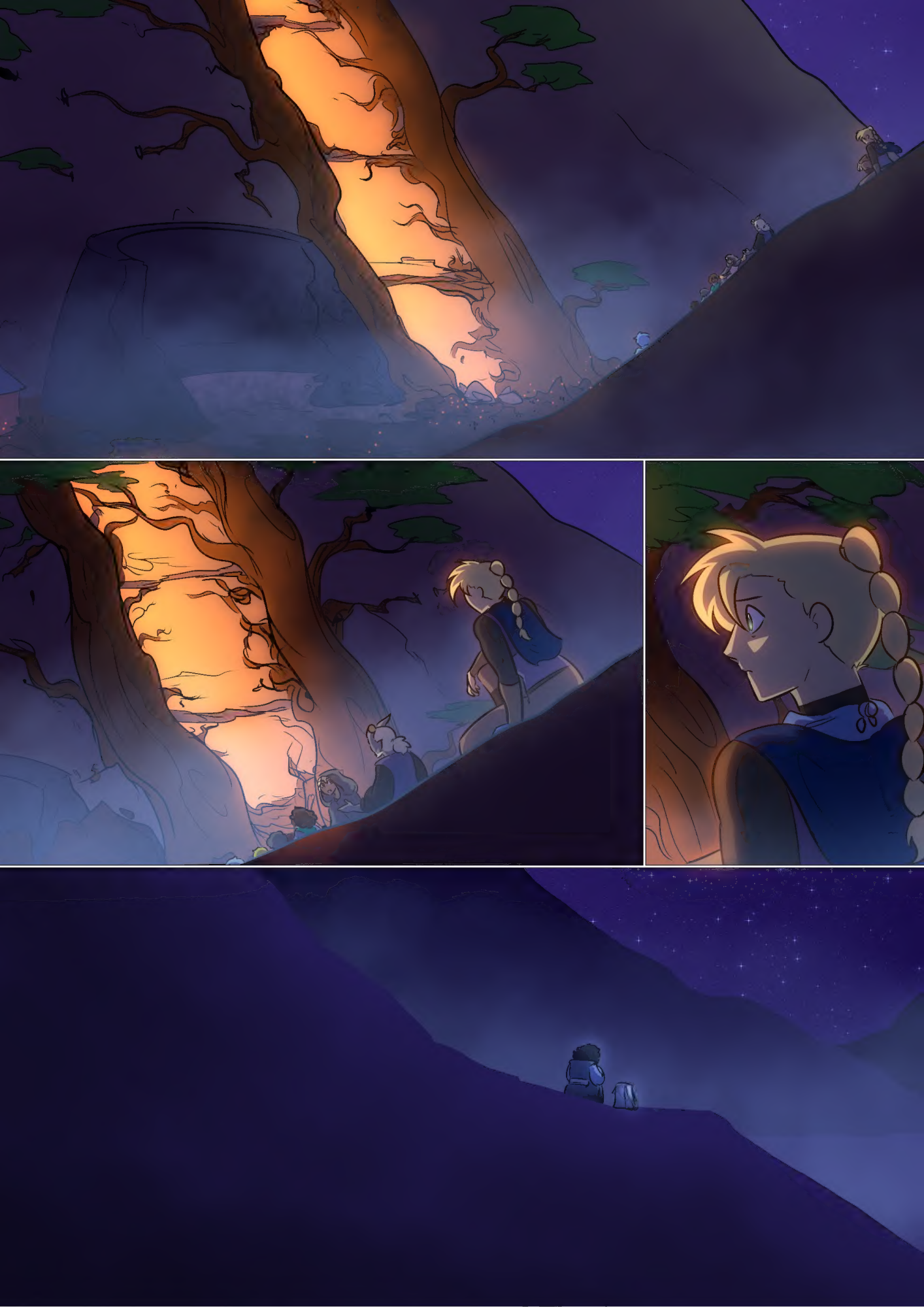
He's right.
We should clear out before things get too complicated. Follow me.
Kendal?
What did you do to Kendal?!
Ahh!
Not here.
Come on!
Wha-!
WAIT!

Never a dull moment with that one.
Now then.
Now what?!
Are you here to gloat?
To brag about the power of the weapon you forged?
Oh, no!
Nothing like that!
Gloating is a waste of time, and I don't like to waste.
That's actually why I'm here.
See, some time ago, I was approached by a rather interesting young woman.
She asked me to make her a tool.
I ended up turning her down, since I was worried she'd continue to stagnate if I gave her an easy shortcut to power.
But the tool she requested... well, I couldn't get it out of my head.
It was such an interesting idea.
I never found the opportunity to test it before now, though.
After all, how often do you really need to imprison a god?

CRACK
Huh.
No!
Stop!
That's not your body!
Not anymore!
Kendal is a person!
You can't just erase him!
You have no RIGHT!
Give him BACK!
It- it is?

...When I lost control.
You can't-?
Believe me, I've been trying, but I'm not certain I have half these cells anymore.
Using the starfire was always taxing, and he was already badly injured before I got here.
I've done what I can, but...
She's in here! There! Can you help him?
...Yes.
Good. There's not much time.
Thank you all for keeping him safe.
He's lucky to have found friends like you.
And please tell him...
Don't ever do this again.

...why am I...?



He tricked me.
Yes.
But you showed me his face.

Ah!
You're back!
That's good.
You really startled me there!
I mean, I was CERTAIN I'd severed all your connections to the outside world.
So...
Where did you go?